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PATENTSIN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: HAYASHI, K ET AL. 1

SERIAL NO: 10/762,761

EXAMINER: E. Nicholson

FILED: January 22, 2004

GROUP: 3679

TITLE: FLANGE

AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO FIRST OFFICE ACTION

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Honorable Commissioner of Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the First Office Action dated October 21, 2004 with the due date for response being January 21, 2005 please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.